

Area parties preparing for November

Now that the March 6 primary results are finalized, political parties are in the process of reorganizing and preparing for the Nov. 6 election.

This process is important as the selection of leadership will shape how fundraising is conducted, which candidates get support, both financially and through grassroots efforts.

The Lake County Republican Party conducted its reorganization Monday night in Painesville. Selected as officers were **Dale Fellows**, chairman; **Amy Sabath**, first vice chairwoman; **Greg Schmidt**, second vice chairman; **Susan Betteley**, secretary; **Dave Vitaz**, treasurer; **Janet Clair**, chairwoman.

Meanwhile, the Geauga County Democratic Party has its reorganization meeting Monday night in Newbury Township. Selected as officers were **Janet Carson**, chairwoman; **Dennis Pavella**, vice chairman; **Glen Quigley**, treasurer; and **Terri McIntee**, secretary.

The Geauga County Republican Party will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Munson Township Hall.

The Lake County Democratic Party was slated to have met at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Bricklayers Hall in Mentor, which is after the deadline for this column's publication. Check back next week for results.

Statewide, the Ohio Democratic Party will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday to reorganize at the state party headquarters in Columbus. Word is party Chairman **Chris Redfern** might have a challenge from Lorain County Democratic Party official **Anthony B. Giardini**.

The Ohio Republican Party will meet Friday for its reorganizational meeting in Dublin. Chairman **Kevin DeWine**



John Arthur Hutchison

plans to step down from his position. Perhaps former Chairman **Bob Bennett** could be the interim chairman as the party gears up for the Nov. 6 election?

Potential commissioner?

What if Lake County Commissioner **Daniel P. Troy** is elected as state representative for Ohio House District 60 in November? Of course, he must first defeat Republican Painesville Councilwoman **Lori DiNallo**.

But if Troy wins, the Lake County Democratic Party would need to make an appointment to fill out the remaining two years of Troy's term.

I'm told former Willoughby Municipal Court Judge **Larry Allen** has an interest in the potential appointment. Others mentioned so far within party circles are Willoughby Hills Councilman **Kevin Malecek** and former state Rep. **Mark Schneider**.

Paper ballots

Lake County Elections Board reports that 28 people used a paper ballot during the March 6 primary. The state required each county that uses electronic voting equipment to have paper ballots on hand equivalent to 10 percent of the number of people who cast ballots in the March 2008 primary. The idea is for them to be available to people who want a paper ballot or in case of emergency.

That means 7,778 paper ballots were

ordered at a cost of \$2,022.28 in Lake County. That equates to \$72.23 per vote cast by paper.

LGYR Hall of Fame

The 12th annual Lake-Geauga Young Republicans Hall of Fame Dinner will be April 20 at Cappelli's Party Center in Mentor. It is the organization's sole fundraiser of the year.

The club will induct into its Hall of Fame former founding member **Stephen Patt**, who was instrumental to help restart the organization in 1999.

Past inductees include **Steven LaTourette**, Fellows, **Jamie Callender**, **Raymond Sines**, **Timothy Grendell**, **B.J. Kresnye**, **Louis Mucci**, **Clair Schmidt**, **Vincent Culotta** and **Eugene Lucci**.

The LGYRs meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Cork's Wine Bar in Willoughby.

Fundies

■ Fundraiser for **Susan McGuinness**, candidate for Ohio House of Representatives District 61, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 16 at Match Works Tavern in Mentor. See **Walt McNamara** or **Ray McGuinness**.

■ Annual Buffet Dinner fundraiser for Lake County Prosecutor **Charles E. Coulson**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 18 at LaMalfa in Mentor. See **Stephen Byron**.

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